

To the editor:

Walk the Walk

There was a little Siletz girl who lived, played, danced, loved to sing. Anxious to learn Tribal ways. Always encouraged to walk softly upon the land. Be respectful. Proud of her ancestors who walked the walk to lands unknown, enduring great sacrifices along this dreadful trek. Their fevered prayers, survival. That their children and children's children forever would live on. Carry Tribal stories, history around warm family fires.

Strength came from camaraderie. Both mental, physical in the darkness of the perilous night. Where a child's cry was comforted from hunger, fright. "Hush my child." Ancestors endured this treachery, cruelty where the blackness of despair was unbreathable pain, sickness. Strong cared for the weaker, vulnerable.

The Great Spirit became lost in a gray wet dawn. Shallow, silent whispers in darkened corners arose, to be herded along the rugged trail. A spark, strength riveted through this ragged little group. It was an echo passed along. As a whole, forget not one family, one child, whose footprints will be etched forever into enlightenment and an awakening of the people.

These are our stories, our dances, down through the ages of time. This is what this little girl believed upon. It is our way, a community raises a child. Unfortunately, her community left her behind, leaving a painful sob of rejection.

By putting this little Siletz girl out of sight, out of mind, by shoving her back into a silent corner, I believe we are disrespecting what our ancestor fought so hard to stay alive for, their precious child.

This I know, there are others who walk this jagged path. We as Tribal family need to bring them into their right of Tribal recognition.

We are charitable in many ways, this is good. But I believe charity begins at home. What is the price tag or value of integrity?

Our non-Tribal direct descendants should not become a throw-away piece of baggage or a commodity, or when we need a number count. Let's bring these valuable family members into our warm fires of hope and enlightenment and investment toward our future.

One of this little Siletz girl's grandmothers, Lucy Dick, an ancestor who truly walked the walk, talked the talk. Suffering great loss of friends, family. Who persevered, with undying commitment, that our children's children forever would live on into our future.

Respectfully submitted,

Eva E. Clayton



Happy 20th Birthday to my baby boy, Cameron!



Happy 10th Birthday to Ella Cree Patrick on April 16! We're so proud of you. We hope all your wishes come true. Love you and like you always, Mom and Dad



Happy 8th Birthday on May 17, my Sweet Pea Boogie Buns! Momma loves you to the moon and back.

Happy Birthday to Aunt Gloria and Kent Rilatos, also on May 17. Hope you both have an amazing day. Selina and kids

I missed putting your 50th birthday in April's paper, so here it is now. Happy 50th to my amazing sister Shannon in Pendleton. I miss and love you lots, sister.

Be safe. Stay home. Stay well.

Happy 19th Birthday, Andrew! We hope that this year your birthday is just the beginning of an unforgettable journey that will lead you to an even more amazing future.

Love, Mama, Floyd and Tehya

Free child ID kits from the Oregon State Police
503-934-0188 or 800-282-7155
child.idkits@state.or.us

Passages Policy

Submissions to Passages are limited to two 25-word items per person, plus one photo if desired.

All birthday, anniversary and holiday wishes will appear in the Passages section.

Siletz News reserves the right to edit any submission for clarity and length.

Not all submissions are guaranteed publication upon submission.

Please type or write legibly and submit via e-mail when possible.

OPEN HEARTS & OPEN HOMES

We are looking to certify Tribal homes as foster home resource placements. Please consider opening up your home for our Tribal children who are in need of foster care.

Families, couples & single adults can become certified foster home resources.

OUR CHILDREN NEED:

- **Permanent Care** **Temporary Care**
- **Short-term Care** **Emergency Care**

Please take the time to consider opening up your loving and safe home & sharing your lives with our precious Tribal children.

Please contact our ICW Department for a foster home application today.

ICW: 541-444-8338



Siletz News Letters Policy

Siletz News, a publication of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, is published once a month. Our editorial policy encourages input from readers about stories printed in Siletz News and other Tribal issues.

All letters must include the author's signature, address, and phone number in order to be considered for publication. Siletz News reserves the right to edit any letter for clarity and length, and to refuse publication of any letter or any part of a letter that may contain profane language, libelous statements, personal attacks or unsubstantiated statements.

Not all letters are guaranteed publication upon submission. Published letters do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Siletz News, Tribal employees, or Tribal Council.

Please type or write legibly. Letters longer than 450 words may be edited for length as approved by Tribal Council Resolution #96-142.

Please note: The general manager of the Siletz Tribe is the editor-in-chief of Siletz News.

Editor-in-Chief: Tina Retasket
Editor: Diane Rodriguez
Assistant: Andy Taylor

2020 Out-of-Area Benefits

The Tribal Council has approved Out-of-Area Benefits for 2020. These benefits are for Tribal members who live outside the 11-county service area. To qualify, Tribal members must be registered for health care with the Siletz Community Health Clinic AND reside outside of the Tribe's 11-county service area. These funds are intended for Tribal members who are not eligible for Purchased Referred Care.

All benefits are dependent on available funding.

Annually
\$2,000 Total in Medical +
Mental Health + Dental + Hearing
Plus \$500 Pharmacy Card Benefit

Biannually
\$450 in total Vision Care for Adults*
*Available Annually for Elders,
Children, Students or Diabetics

Call PRC – 800-628-5720

Prior authorization by PRC is required and benefits must be used within 90 days. Any funds not used within 90 days, or claims not received, will be returned to the pool for redistribution. An individual can access benefits up to \$2,000 annually by calling on the authorization date. For example, an individual can call Jan. 2 for medical of \$500 and then call again Oct. 7 for dental of \$1,500 for a total of \$2,000. All benefits are subject to funding availability. When calling for pre-authorization, PRC will authorize for household members only. Voice messages do not hold funds, the individual must speak to PRC staff and obtain an out-of-area (OOA) number to secure funds.